

In the Claims

1-6. (cancelled)

7. (new) A threaded ring for threadedly engaging an externally threaded section of a spindle, comprising:

a one-piece body having first and second body components and having a longitudinal axis, said first body component forming a set collar with a planar surface on one end thereof extending in a radial plane relative to said longitudinal axis, said second body component forming a retaining ring connected to said first body component and having a front surface;

a gap between said body components having a radially outer end;

an elastically flexible wall component of said body connecting said body components;

a first circumferential area on said first body component;

a second cylindrical circumferential area on said second body component for forming said flexible wall component, said second circumferential surface being spaced radially from said longitudinal axis by a distance less than radial spacings of said first circumferential area and of said radially outer end from said longitudinal axis, said radially outer end being spaced radially from said longitudinal axis by a distance less than the radial spacing of said first circumferential area from said longitudinal axis, said second circumferential area ending at an axial distance from said gap to define a dimension of said flexible wall component in an axial direction and extending from said front surface to said flexible wall component; and

a plurality of set screws coupled to said body components to adjust geometry of said gap by adjustment of said flexible wall.

8. (new) A threaded ring according to claim 7 wherein

said set screws are positioned evenly on a circle coaxial with said longitudinal axis, and have screw heads engaging said second body component.

9. (new) A threaded ring according to claim 8 wherein

said second body component has recesses in said front surface thereof; and

said heads of said set screws are seated in said recesses.

10. (new) A threaded ring according to claim 9 wherein

said heads of said set screws have hexagonal sockets; and

free end surfaces of said heads of said set screws are substantially flush with said front surface when said heads are received in said recesses.

11. (new) A threaded ring according to claim 7 wherein

said set screws have heads bearing on said second body component and have threaded shanks threadedly engaging said first body component.

12. (new) A threaded ring according to claim 7 wherein

said first and second body components have internal threads threadedly engaged on an externally threaded portion of a spindle.